

one for my collection; and that as I can say beforehand I shall find *Cœnuri* of such a size and of such a degree of development, the question of coincidence is set at rest. It might as well be said, that the plants we gather do not arise from the seeds which have been put into the earth.—*Comptes Rendus*, July 3, 1854, p. 46.

## THECACERA PENNIGERA.

To the Editors of the *Annals of Natural History*.

Weymouth, August 13, 1854.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the pleasure of announcing the capture by myself of two specimens of what I consider, without the slightest doubt, to be *Thecacera pennigera* of Montagu: see Brit. Moll. iii. p. 575. The only difference I can at present detect is in the number of appendages surrounding the vent. Montagu makes them five in number, whilst I make them three. I feel considerable doubt in any way questioning the accuracy of such an extraordinarily accurate observer as Montagu. I have placed the specimens in far more able hands than mine for description. The first specimen lived in my dredging vessel, in a bottle of salt water, for six weeks. It is a very lively animal, and fond of swimming foot upwards on the top of the water. This was obtained on the 31st July last. The second specimen I caught yesterday, whilst fishing in ten fathoms water, gravelly bottom, in company with Mr. H. Adams and two other friends; this was dispatched by post. I yesterday obtained, for the first time *this season*, *Antiopa cristata*; they were, however, small.

I am, Gentlemen, yours truly,

WILLIAM THOMPSON.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have received a communication from Mr. Albany Hancock, to whom I had sent the specimen obtained on the 31st July, and who fully concurs with me as to its being the true *Thecacera pennigera*.

## ATHYRIUM RHÆTICUM.

To the Editors of the *Annals of Natural History*.

British Museum, 28th August 1854.

GENTLEMEN,—The year before last I gathered at Eridge, near Tunbridge Wells, on a bit of ground from which trees had been recently removed, some plants of *Athyrium Filix-femina* with the erect habit, curled pinnules, and apparently linear frond, which are given by Mr. Moore, in the 2nd edition of his 'Handbook of British Ferns,' as the characteristics of *A. rhæticum*; I have since noticed in Scotland that plants of this species, growing on walls where they are exposed to the sun, frequently assume a similar habit; and on recently visiting a part of Tilgate Forest, where I had, two years since, gathered abundance of the normal state of *A. Filix-femina*, together with most luxuriant specimens of *Polypodium Phegopteris*, I found (the trees having been cleared away in the mean time) only the *rhæ-*